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much in my answeare as can be justly proved ag<sup>t</sup> me onely I must intimate to yo<sup>r</sup> houn<sup>ts</sup> that upon the Examination of Baxter, it may be observed that Baxter swears in his owne behalf, and there is now a suit depending in the county Courte for w<sup>t</sup> he owes me, and would by this maner of way cleare himself & defraud me, but to remember what he, or the rest have sworne, as to make answeare to I cannot, onely I observe that the moste of the Evidences were very rebells, and my particular enimy<sup>es</sup>, all w<sup>ch</sup> I leave to yo<sup>r</sup> houn<sup>ts</sup> moste serious considerations, and doe not doubt, but that yo<sup>r</sup> houn<sup>ts</sup> will weigh every thing indifferently, soe prayeing for yo<sup>r</sup> houn<sup>ts</sup> I am

Rt. hon<sup>ble</sup> your houn<sup>ts</sup> moste humble servant,

(signed)

EDW. HILL.

### SOME COLONIAL LETTERS.\*

London, 18 Aprill, 1711.

Dear Sir:

I rec<sup>d</sup> yrs y<sup>e</sup> 31 Jan<sup>r</sup>, and beg you will never make any apology to Comand me in any thing for yr. Service. Upon y<sup>e</sup> receipt of yr. Letter and another from my good friend Coll. Carter upon ye same errand w<sup>h</sup> Mr. Perry delivered to me, both together immediately we waited upon Mr. Blathwayt for feare of looseing time, and that he might be solicited for some others as he has been since. I must doe Mr. Perry justice that recommended you both very strenuously to Mr. Blath: as both his friends, but before we went I was prevalent with Mr. Per \* \* to leave a little to my plea that you were \* \* in y<sup>r</sup> project of \* \* \* I tooke ye Liberty to tell Mr. Blath: that I was under a former promise to appeare for you more Particularly,

\* All these letters are addressed to Philip Ludwell and are a part of the Ludwell MSS.

and to give you the preference of my small interest before Coll. Carter. Mr. Blathwayt desired three days to consider of it w<sup>th</sup> was but reasonable, and asked me some questions, amongst ye rest if you were well w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Byrd, w<sup>th</sup> we both affirmed you were.

Before Mr. Blathwayt determined who he would give it to, Mr. Perry came to me before we went y<sup>e</sup> second time and communicated another letter from you, in w<sup>th</sup> you suggested to him that Coll. Digges allowed C<sup>t</sup> and you £500 to be admitted. I frankly told Mr. Perry I would be your opponent rather than y<sup>r</sup> advocate to consent you should part w<sup>th</sup> any such sume upon soe precarious a foundation as Upon Mr. Blathwayt's Life, and many other contingent accidents, besides ye cause will not beare it, but Mr. Perry seemed to think rather than you should loose it to offer a 100 or 200 of Pounds. I told him I did not doubt but we should worke it for you on better terms, for Mr. Blath: has for a late piece of friendship I have done assured me he would be ready to do any Services he could, tho' I joyn with you he is hard to make any impression upon, but by ye method you mention, but I was determined to try my interest in him. I must doe him justice; he told me frankly that if I inclined to prefer you before any other friend or was pre-engaged to you that you should have it upon terms of allowing two and a half p. ct. which I suppose is one moyety, and I am apt to \* \* Coll. Diggs did not pay any such sume, I will not say there was nothing given for \* \* Mr. Blath: had conferred it upon you with a good grace and his man had order \* to write your Commission, w<sup>th</sup> is to be sent to Mr. Perry this week; he gave me a hint as to the way he had been applied to by severall and amongst ye rest for Coll. Diggs who had made an interest to him w<sup>th</sup> seemed simply as if he expected some small matter, but my advice shall be to play y<sup>e</sup> \* us hand for you and part w<sup>th</sup> noe mony and take no obligation upon myself. Now S<sup>r</sup> I heartily wish you joy of it and should have been glad it had been of more emolument. I have here enclosed you a Copy of my letter to Coll. Carter that you may see how candidly I have dealt w<sup>th</sup> him, as you are both friends to each other as well as to my Selfe. I think it will not be necessary to let him Know I have

sent you a Duplicate of my Letter; he maye take it amiss from him who is

Yr. most Faith<sup>u</sup> \* \*

N. BLAKISTON.

London, 28th Aprill, 1710.

Dear Sir:

The night before Coll. Spotwood left London he did me ye hon<sup>r</sup> to come and take his leave of me, and I gave him ye trouble of my Letters to my Friends in Virginia, and yrs. was amongst ye rest, but by some unlucky accident my Letter to you fell behinde ye Table where we sat and did not finde it till y<sup>e</sup> Tuesday, and that night enclosed it in a Letter to Coll. Spotwood at Portsmouth, but I finde he stayed but one night there and my letter was left behinde. I have not y<sup>e</sup> vanity to think it was of any moment to you only ye hint I gave you of inviteing y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> to Green Spring might have been of use to you if y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> had carryed it; however I have sent you a duplicate of it lest ye originall should miscary, that you may see I have not been wanting in giveing you y<sup>e</sup> best information I can to facillitate yr. pretention.

I have been favoured w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> ye 27 of Dec<sup>r</sup> last, and my girle is very much obliged to yr. Daughter Lucy for her Kinde remembrance of an Indian baskett, but I heare ye ship is gone into y<sup>e</sup> West Country, but Rachel gives her Services to Mrs. Lucy and thanks her for her Kinde intention and accepts y<sup>e</sup> favor as much as if she had received it.

I saw yr. Father about 2 days agoe who still continues ill in his eyes. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

ye most obliged Ser.

N. BLAKISTON.

London.

Dear S<sup>r</sup>:

I am to acknowledge yrs. of y<sup>e</sup> 12 of June, at w<sup>th</sup> time y<sup>r</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> was not arrived, but did in a few days afterwards.

I had y<sup>r</sup> favor of a letter from Coll. Spotswood dated ye 16 of

Aug<sup>t</sup>, and I cannot helpe telling you he seemes to write w<sup>th</sup> great Frankness to me ye subject of w<sup>th</sup> he is much upon y<sup>e</sup> Topick of his satisfaction he is like to have in ye society of some of my friends I tooke ye liberty to recommend to him, and I perceive he was greatly obliged by ye early opportunity you tooke in meeting him at James Town, and y<sup>e</sup> generous reception you gave him at Green Spring, w<sup>th</sup> was soe well timed that I am not without hopes you have laid a foundation to cultivate a good interest in him. He tells me he has by a side wise given Coll. Jen: to understand how much it would conduce to his own service to put a person of yr. probity in his office in his absence, and that he was not w<sup>th</sup>out hopes but that he might bring it to beare, tho Jen: did not seem at that time to relish it Soe very well, but I hope he will be sensible, that it is his interest to comply and not to Shock y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Especially when it is a request that will be soe Reputable for him in putting it in ye hands of a gentleman that will fully accord with him and oblige ye publique at ye same time.

By Coll. Spotswood letter to me under the rose I finde Coll. Jen: has been advancing to him some schemes of Poloticks how he was to manage ye Councill, but they were soe preposterous that Coll. Spotswood must have him in much contempt for his wild notions. I never heard that he was Consumate for y<sup>e</sup> Cabinet. I desire Coll. Spotswood thinks when he comes home he will not take any great paines to advance any thing in favour of y<sup>e</sup> Councill, all I can do is to have an eye that he does not make any false Insinuation or just representations, if he does he shall heare of it.

I was in hopes our \* in Spaine might have opened a scene for a glorious peace, but K. Charles I doubt has not been Sec-onded to support it, and these unaccountable and amazing changes in ye ministry w<sup>th</sup> ye Desolation of a good parliament has given but a darke aspect to things here, I think all People that were in office and in ye ministry are almost turned out except ye Duke of Mal. and how long he is to continue I know not, where this affaire will end requires a greater Conjourer than myselfe \* you, but I hope Heaven has a blessing in store for us under all our ill conduct.

I am sorry to tell you I have been attacked w<sup>th</sup> a Fit of ye

Gout. I never had any symptoms of it before; it has held me some weeks and I still Keep my Chamber, but in all conditions of Life, I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Yr. Most Faithful Serv't,

N. BLAKISTON.

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London, 10 July, 1711.

Dear Sir,

I am favoured w<sup>th</sup> yrs. ye 17 of March, w<sup>th</sup> yr. Duplicate ye 28 of Feb<sup>r</sup>, in w<sup>ch</sup> was a letter from you to y<sup>r</sup> Lord and Master Blathwayt, and since I have endeavoured to establish you in yr. request to him and that it is done, and I hope ere this you have rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Commission. I thought it proper not to deliver y<sup>r</sup> Letter, and yr. Friend Mr. Pearce was of that opinion as well as my selfe, besides I had another more prevailing reason not to give him yr. Letter, being a paragraph in it w<sup>ch</sup> might have been omitted, viz: (tho' I have not ye hon<sup>r</sup> of being known to you but by name and that perhaps at ye \* \* hand). If Mr. Blath: had any ill Impressions of yr. Father he never suggested the least hint to Mr. Perry or my selfe when we applyed to him, neither did we mention ye old gentleman, and if Mr. B. had any resentment I hope he is too much a good orthodox Xtian to forget it, but ye best way is not to put him in minde of them, but I hope he has too much generosity that he would not entaile y<sup>e</sup> Crimes if any of ye Father upon y<sup>e</sup> son, y<sup>e</sup> best way is to let things of that nature keep and not needlessly revive them. If I have been in error in this I aske yr. pardon for it, but I am so partiall to myself as to thinke y<sup>e</sup> delivery of yr. Letter was not materiall, since yr. business was effected.

I have taken y<sup>e</sup> Liberty in my Letter of this date to thank Coll. Spotswood for his favour to you in possessing you of ye place upon Coll. Diggs Death, w<sup>ch</sup> was all he could doe he tells me to write a letter likewise to Mr. Blathwayt, but it did not come time enough. I have rec<sup>d</sup> Severall letters from Coll. Spotswood and Copys of abstracts he has written to y<sup>e</sup> Lords of Trade, in w<sup>ch</sup> he has given to me hints that might greatly be improved to ye advancem<sup>t</sup> of Virginia, and what does not seeme to be Repugnant to ye Interest of other nations, but there is two

of them that will never be \* \* here viz: that of Navall stores to be taken in part of Customes of Toba<sup>co</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> will never goe down here, for y<sup>e</sup> Customes of Tobacco are all appropriated, and y<sup>e</sup> parliam<sup>t</sup> will never be prevailed w<sup>ch</sup> will alter it, and for y<sup>e</sup> other proposall of ye Iron works w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Assembly resolved, I am morally assured will meet with noe Countenance from y<sup>e</sup> publick, for you cannot conceive what an ill Relish any thing has here that may but have ye least aspect to interfere w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> planting of Tob<sup>o</sup>, tho' that Comodity must of necessity decline of itself when y<sup>e</sup> Inhabitants are convinced it will not \* \* support them. I must tell you we have but few amongst our Legislators that are judges of ye emoluments that accrue to this nation by succouring & nourishing y<sup>e</sup> plantation, we seeme to be disposed to \* things that may depress them. I shall not trouble you farther but assure you I am with Sincerity, Dear Sir,

Yr. most Faithfull Serv<sup>t</sup>,

N. BLAKISTON.

I am greatly obliged to you for yt. conserne that ye Assembly were soe strate laced that they would not adhere to so just a position as to consider ye funerall expences of Coll. Nott when y<sup>e</sup> Councell did it for ye Hon<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>mt</sup>, but I will not \* \* but they may muster up more generously in y<sup>e</sup> next convention.

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London, 18 Jan<sup>r</sup>, 1711.

Dear S<sup>r</sup>:

I have not been favoured w<sup>th</sup> any of y<sup>r</sup> since y<sup>e</sup> 3 of July by y<sup>e</sup> ffilet. I made enquiry of our ffriend Mr. Perry if he has had any Intimation from you of yr. haveing y<sup>r</sup> Commission, but Mr. Perry tells me he has not yet sent it, but if you are in ye office by ye kind appointm<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> \* \* will be ye less.

I am under some concerne to see our Grandees as some are so Regardless of ye Interest of Virginia as to be Constantly seeking that Country of y<sup>e</sup> \* \* that was always appropriated to Defray ye Contingent Charges of y<sup>e</sup> Gover<sup>mt</sup> your hive of Virginia brings a great deal of Hony to this Nation and costs them nothing; this illegall practice was never used till of late and is

only to stop some \* \* here. I am confident you are very solicitous to heare how this part of y<sup>e</sup> world moves by w<sup>th</sup> you are influenced. We are yet in y<sup>e</sup> Darke whether we shall have peace or war, except it be a few of those who steere y<sup>e</sup> Helme. All mankind who feel Interest in theire Country wish for a Solid and good peace, and w<sup>th</sup>out that we had better risque being undone by a just war. We have \* \* \* \* to our good allies of Reproaching us of making private overtures to France. Probity and Integrity becomes all societies of mankinde. I would have us approve ourselves Faithfull Confederates Whatever happens, but a few weeks will let all poore mortalls into this Grand amusement. You will by our publick prints and papers see ye unhappy dissensions that are fomented and Keep up by ye contending parties. I must confess y<sup>e</sup> turning out of y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Malbrough gives me but a very Indiferent Impression, for those who have been ye chiefe agitators could not oblige y<sup>e</sup> King of France more thane ye Disgraceing ye person who has been such a Terror to that Successful Tyrant. Ye Duke of Malbrough is charged w<sup>th</sup> very flagrant enormities of Defrauding ye Publick, but a little Time will convince ye world his Superior merit is not to be blasted by Calumny and Sinister views. He ought to be y<sup>e</sup> Subject of our adoration. Ingratitude in former ages was deemed a Capital Crime. If ye war continues and any Disaster happens for want of that man who has been a Scourge to ye Common Enemie, We shall only have ye Satisfaction to say we have been our own Executioners. This is not a Topick to Say much upon, because wiser Heads have engaged in ye Transaction.

You will find by Coll. Spotswood's letter that I am under some Disgrace w<sup>th</sup> Coll. Jennings by endeavouring to procure \* \* of Secr<sup>y</sup> for Mr. Cox and not a Deputation, and that I have also forfeited ye good oppinion of Coll. Corbin who came home full freighted to Retreve his Hon<sup>r</sup>. I shall not trouble you farther but beg you will upon all occations doe me y<sup>e</sup> justice to believe I am w<sup>th</sup> great truth, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>,

Yr. Most Obliged, &c.,

N. BLAKISTON.



I am in behalf of my Daughter to thank you for y<sup>e</sup> Indian corn, but ye Red birds did not come to hand and tho you attended w<sup>th</sup> soe much trouble y<sup>e</sup> preserving of them and procuring them to be sent Home that I desire you will desist and not attempt ye sending them.

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London, 18 July, 1714.

Dear Sir,

I did very much joy to heare by our \* Friends in Leaden Hall Street that you and yr. pupill Mr. Perry was safe arrived in yr. own Territories. I am well convinced it was a pleasure to you to turne yr. Backe on this Inconsistent and dissatisfied Nation, and we persist to be as much Devested of our reason as when you left us; but the French Emisaries have not been prevalent soe much to goe ye Bill for ye French treaty set on foot in ye house of Commons this yeare, but we have confirmed ye Spanish treaty of Commerce w<sup>th</sup> ye learned say will infallibly extirpate all our Trade there, w<sup>th</sup> is of ye most Important Consequences to us of all Commerce, It was proved at ye Barr of ye House of Lords last week by unanimos oppinion of all y<sup>e</sup> Spanish Merc<sup>ts</sup>, who appeared before that house upon a Summons, that there was noe Trade to be carryed on upon the Termes we had concurred to, but numbers carries every thing and some people justified as good patriots w<sup>th</sup> have not y<sup>e</sup> least clame to human reason or understanding, it seems to be our hard fate to be \* \* by all ye Courts of Europe when ye poore Spanyard can over reach us, but it is w<sup>th</sup> ye assistance of y<sup>e</sup> more Refined from France.

I was at ye Board of Trade about a week agoe where it was hinted to me that Mr. Barkly of Virginia had made some Remonstrance to that Board of a dificulty had been put upon him by Gov<sup>r</sup> Spotswood in swearing other two gentlemen of y<sup>e</sup> Councill that morning. Mr. Barkly came to town to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> he had ye Queen's leave to appoint him one of y<sup>e</sup> Councill, and it was ye oppinion of some of ye Board of Trade that whoever was Mr. Barkly's agent was to prefer a Petition to her Mat<sup>y</sup> setting forth y<sup>e</sup> State of ye lease. So meeting w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Perry I was let into some part of ye matter. I am very sollicitous that

since there has not been least Representation from Virginia of any misunderstand betwixt ye Gov<sup>r</sup> and ye Inhabitants there, that this might be suspended awhile and see if it could be Compromised, and by what I can learne there is noe Solid foundation for this dispute, soe I have under y<sup>e</sup> rose got my Lord O: to write to Coll. Spo: to accomodate this matter soe that this treviall resent<sup>mt</sup> may be laid in Oblivion. I have write to Coll. Sp: upon this Subject, and have frankly acquainted him w<sup>th</sup> my poor Sentiments, but I will not answere whether I shall have any thanks for my pains, but it may be a Mistaken Zeal; but let that be as it will. If ye Resentment be what has been Suggested to me I think it will not beare ye Scanning here, tho' ye affaire is not of any great Importance. You need not take any notice of what I have hinted in this matter for some reasons.

Praying my Service to Mr. Perry all under my Roofe and y<sup>r</sup> and y<sup>r</sup> Ladys Servant, I am in great truth D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Y<sup>r</sup> most Faithful &c.,

N. BLAKISTON.

DECISIONS OF VIRGINIA GENERAL COURT,  
1626-1628.

THE PROVOST MARSHALL'S FEES.

- For an arrest £ ——— 1<sup>s</sup> Tob<sup>o</sup> one bushell of corne.  
 For Imprisonmt. { at coming £ ——— 2<sup>s</sup>—one bush. of corne.  
                               { at going out, ——— 2<sup>s</sup>—one bush. of corne.  
 For setting by ye heeles, £—5 ———.  
 For warning to ye Court, £—5 ———.  
 For punishing any man by whipping, pillory, ducking, &c.  
 £ ——— 10<sup>s</sup>.  
 Upon the ordering of any act in Court £ ——— 1<sup>s</sup>.